

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO DORIS TURNER KEYS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Doris Turner Keys, a union leader who has demonstrated dedication to improving the lives of others.

Doris Turner Keys has been a member of District 1199, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU), AFL-CIO for more than thirty years. She was a leader in the historic 1959 hospital workers strike which launched the union, and she joined the union staff as an organizer in 1960. She rose through the ranks, quickly becoming Vice President, Area Director. She became Executive Vice President in 1967 and served in that position for 15 years.

In May 1982, she was elected President of District 1199, and was re-elected in 1984. As a founding member and principal organizer she served as Secretary, and as an officer of the State AFL-CIO, and was the only African American woman and one of two women of the AFL-CIO to serve at that time.

Mrs. Keys served as a trustee of the union's Training and Upgrading program which provides over \$1 million dollars annually to 1199 members seeking upward mobility. She was a leader in the struggle to improve union services for members and their families, especially children and retirees, and was instrumental in expanding the union's civic, social, cultural, and political programs.

She has dedicated herself to national, local and community endeavors. Mrs. Keys was a New York State delegate to the National Women Founding Conference in Houston, Texas in 1975 and served as a New York City Commissioner of Human Rights for six years. She was also a member of the Committee International Year of the Woman and a Trustee of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Changes. She served as a delegate representing Westchester County at a Democratic Convention. Mrs. Keys has served on the New York State Hospital Review and Planning Council as well as many other health and labor related organizations.

Mrs. Keys has been honored by the NAACP, the NYC Council AFL-CIO, the Urban League, and the African Peoples Christian Organization, among others. She is the recipient of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Sojourner Truth Loyalty Award, New York State 33rd Assembly District's Service and Humanitarian Award, and the Letha Loggins Bradford Memorial Foundations' Woman of the Year Award. She has been recognized for her role in raising money for AIDS research and treatment. She has also been listed in "Who's Who in Black America" and "Who's Who in the Labor Movement".

Mrs. Keys makes her home in Mount Vernon, New York and she and her family are active members of the Bethesda Baptist Church of New Rochelle. For more than 12 years, she was the cook in the church's soup kitchen, Lad's Lunch, which fed approximately 100 men, women and children each week.

She is married to Willie D. Keys and is the mother of 2 daughters. She has 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Her extended family includes several sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and cousins. However, she says she is most of all a child of the King.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Doris Turner Keys.

IN HONOR OF US NAVAL ARMED GUARD AND AIR FORCE VETERAN CHARLES ARTHUR ALESHIRE

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a Joliet citizen and hero of the Greatest Generation, Charles Arthur Aleshire. Due to its rapid disbandment and lack of proper records, the efforts of members of the Naval Armed Guard Service, such as Mr. Aleshire, have been largely overlooked by history. Mr. Aleshire served our country with courage and honor when the world turned to the United States to fight tyranny and oppression in World War II.

Mr. Aleshire volunteered when he was just 17 to join the U.S. Navy Armed Guard service and protect vital supplies and troops necessary for the war effort. His service took him around the world, to South America where he watched for German U-Boats, to the invasion of Okinawa, where he and his shipmates faced Japanese kamikaze attacks on their fleet. On February 18th, 1946, his 21st birthday, he was honorably discharged as a Coxswain at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

However, his service to our country did not end there. In 1948, Mr. Aleshire entered the Air Force, and was assigned to the 509th Bombardment Wing, as an Airframe Repair Specialist. This unit served as the core of the newly formed Strategic Air Command. Mr. Aleshire was on active duty during some of the most dangerous conflicts and crises of the 20th century, including the Korean War, the Berlin Airlift, and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He retired as a Staff Sergeant in 1966.

An indebted country cannot thank Mr. Aleshire and so many other brave men and women enough for their selfless sacrifice. His admirable service to our country is in keeping with the highest traditions of honor and service displayed by our armed forces, and is an example to all Americans.

HONORING DR. JOE E. ELLIS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Dr. Joe E. Ellis of Benton, Kentucky.

Dr. Ellis will soon be elected president of the American Optometric Association during their 113th annual meeting, where he will be installed as AOA's 89th president on Saturday, June 19th, 2010 in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Ellis is a graduate of the Southern College of Optometry and has a private practice in Marshall County. He was named Kentucky Young Optometrist of the Year in 1992 and has also received three President's Awards from the Kentucky Optometric Association.

Dr. Ellis' particular area of interest is advocacy, especially as it relates to patients' access to optometric care. He has been active in legislative and government relations at the state and national levels and recently served as Chairman of the AOA's State Health Care Legislation Committee.

Dr. Ellis was instrumental in the passage of the first state law of its kind that requires that all Kentucky children entering public schools receive a diagnostic eye examination. The Kentucky General Assembly identified problems with vision as an important factor limiting children's abilities to learn and succeed. Through this, they recognized that the early diagnosis and treatment of children's vision problems is a necessary component to school readiness and academic learning and the enactment of this legislation in 2000 ensured that children in my state are able to meet their developmental potential.

Doctors of optometry serve patients in nearly 6,500 communities across the country, and in 3,500 of those, they are the only eye doctors. Optometrists provide two-thirds of all primary eye care in the United States. The American Optometric Association represents approximately 36,000 doctors of optometry, optometry students and paraoptometric assistants and technicians.

Dr. Ellis' enthusiasm for optometry and commitment to excellence in eye and vision care has earned him this prestigious national office and public recognition. I am confident that he will have a very successful term as the American Optometric Association's president. His election is a tribute to his years of service to the profession of optometry in Kentucky and throughout the nation. I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating him on this achievement and wishing him the best of luck in this endeavor.

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